

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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65

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 NASA-01 IO-11 /082 W

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R 051326Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7934

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, MA

SUBJ: INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FONMIN BEMANANJARA GREETED ME WARMLY DURING MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL JAN. 31 AND ALMOST FROM OUTSET, HE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING DIALOGUE TO UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT IT IS THAT DIVIDES US. I SAID THAT I TOO WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH A DIALOGUE AND THAT I PLANNED TO BEGIN KEEPING HIM AND HIS SENIOR DEPUTIES INFORMED AS TO OUR MOTIVATION CONCERNING VARIOUS ISSUES. HE EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST.

2. HAVING HEARD SEVERAL DAYS PREVIOUSLY (FROM MFA SEC.-GEN. BEZAZA) THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED HAD NOT YET REACTED TO OUR NOTES ON (A) THE NASA BASE AND (B) CANCELLATION OF AID RAILROAD EXTENSION LOAN, I TOLD FONMIN THAT I HOPED NEITHER SUBJECT WOULD HAUNT OUR GENERAL RELATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, I ADDED, THEY SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF OUR PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS SINCE WE HAVE STOPPED IGNORING VOTING PATTERNS IN UN, ESPECIALLY ON SUBJECTS OF CONCERN TO US AND OF NO DIRECT INTEREST TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE US IN UN. HE AGREED THAT OUR DISPARATE VIEWS OUGHT TO BE RECONCILED AND AGAIN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HEARING OUR VIEWS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

3. COMMENT: BEMANANJARA'S FRIENDLINESS APPEARED TO BE SINCERE.

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HOWEVER, HE IS YOUNG (32) AND UNTIL HE BECAME MIN/TRANSPORT IN

JUNE 1975 HE HAD ONLY BEEN DIRECTOR OF MARINE DISTRICT
AT TAMATAVE 1972-75. HE THEREFORE HAS A LOT TO LEARN AND UN-
DOUBTEDLY RATSIRAKA WILL SERVE AS LECTURER. NONETHELESS, HE HAS
OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION THAT WE WILL NOT LET GO
UNFULFILLED.

4. MEMCON FOLLOWS.SHEINBAUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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